Editor, Book World
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On the very day the Post, belatedly, acknowledges editorially how harmful it was for "government processes" to "create and keep running" what was disasterously wrong in Viet Nam, Book World sees to it that there is no end to it with regard to the second greatest cause of national disenchantment and disillusionment, the JFK assassination.

To be sure of succeeding Book World chose to review Norman Mailer's prostitution of himself along with our history, a self-important-subject-matter ignoramus who, after reading what is really Mailer's Tale, does not ask himself how any longwinded egomaniac could write 828 pages on the asuumption, no more, that Oswald was the assassin.

Not only does Mailer offer no proof- and if Joseph Finder was at all familiar with Mailer's public record he would have known that Mailer always assumed Oswald's guilt without question - and from his own disgracefully self-descriptive bibliography has not read a single one of the books that with the official evidence only prove that Oswald was not the assassin and that this was known to all the official investigators.

I am quite prepared to face any challenge from you or from Finder on this. In fact, I invite it.

Ignorance and prejudice being what the Post requires for such reviews, Finder justifies the Post's confidence in this by praising Mailer for his use of "One of his major sources" that in Finder's words is "the Warren Commission's investigation." The fact is that whether or not that part of this shameful book is Mailer's own work, which I doubt very much, the deliberateness with which he corrupts what he uses and the dishonesty of what he omits is, again Finder's words, "something only Mailer could have pulled off."

Unless Oswald was the assassin, and all the actual official evidence proves more than that he was not -that he could not have been - there is no point in the rerenderd schmalz of his life in Minsk. There is nothing but meaningless detail added for all his contact with the people of Minsk and the KBG there that Mailer adds to what was public. And even then he omits what utterly destroys the fiction he has been toying with for decades.

Mailer's Tale, which is what emerged, was not even Mailer's idea. It was the deal arranged by the man for whom, Pulitzers of not, Mailer was the hired Pen, that scavanger of scavengers, that most successful of the commercializing ghouls, Larry Schiller.

Of whom Mailer himself says that he makes Munchausen seem like George Washington.

Why no question, did Schiller pay the KGB for what they got in Minsk and then cut he-man Mailer in on the deal?

Such disgusting travesties, such deliberate corruption of the national mind and of our tragic history, are possible only because of the Orwellian practise of the major media and on the Post, particularly Book World, in suppressing all reference to the work that, based on the official evidence only, tells what truth can be told about the assassination without such morbic theorizing as the Mailers and their sycophantic Finders resort to ~~find easy refutation~~.

More of a disgrace to the Post is it that this sophomoric, ignorant, really stupid in the obvious questions it does not ask, misinformed as it refers to the public record, pretense of a scholarly review appears along after Publishers Weekly's review decimated ~~described~~ Mailer's sad Tale. Exactly as ~~it is and~~ the New York Times of April 25 devoted more than 30 column inches to destroying Mailer's "boring," "presumptuous," "derivative," "~~self~~ solipsistic", "weary," "improbable" "portentous" book as "long-winded " and "ultimately superfluous".

This whoring with our history disgraces us all. That Book World persists in it after all these years disgraces it and the Post. For shame!

Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg

Now, Ms. King, if you doubt my credentials I have published seven books on the JFK assassination and its investigations, with the eighth now due- and with not one reviewed by the Post, without a single letter or call from any one of the hundreds and hundreds of whom I wrote critically. Not any complaint of unfairness or of inaccuracy. And the Department of Justice itself, proof on request, told federal district court in my CA 75-226 that I knew more about the JFK asassination and its investigations than anyone working for the FBI. For 30 years I have been a source, credited and uncredited but never asking confidentiality of innumerable reporters, On the Post George Lardner in particular. I think

He will tell you that while we have disagreements I have never given him a bum steer and that nothing he got from me and used was ever inaccurate. Moreover, I practise the right of the people to know as you resolutely refuse to. I give free and unsupervised access to all those who write what I know I will not agree with to all the hundreds of thousands of pages of once-withheld official records I got from many FOIA lawsuits some of which the government stonewalled for a decade and more. They also have unsupervised access to our copier.

Despite the refusal of the Post to review a single one of my books. In fact, the then reviewer wrote a favorable review of my first and it was killed.

I add a personal criticism: there are few issues more important to the integrity of our society ~~and~~ than the JFK assassination and its official investigations. And, you, personally, suppressed reviews of books based only on the official evidence that dis-~~prove~~ prove the official mythology.

Is this how you meet your responsibilities in a society like ours? Do the Post dolls?

When I met Mailer in 1973 at a gathering of ~~the~~ assassination nuts I offered him access to all I have. That includes all the records I obtained and all my work on the Commission's unpublished documents as well as what it published. He said he'd think it over. He cites not one document in all 828 pages.

Sorry about my typing. I'm sorry it cannot be any better.

Harold